

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1472
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
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USEC
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IT, PINT, PINR
SUBJECT: THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR

REF: ROME 13854 (1976)

1. SUMMARY. THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, VINCENZO SCOTTI,
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IS NOT ONLY ONE OF TWO NEW FACES (AND THE YOUNGEST MEMBER)
IN THE CABINET PROCLAIMED BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI: HE
IS ALSO ONE OF THE MORE PROMINISING AND HIGHLY RESPECTED
MEMBERS OF THE NEWER GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
LEADERS UPON WHICH THE HOPES OF THE DC RENEWAL ARE BASED.
ABOVE ALL, SCOTTI IS A CLOSE COLLABORATOR, AND VIRTUALLY A
PROTEGE, OF PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, VINCENZO SCOTTI, WAS BORN IN NAPLES IN 1933. HE EARLY JOINED THE CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT IN HIS HOME TOWN. WHILE EARNING A LE DEGREE, HIS PROFESSIONAL CONCENTRATION HAS BEEN IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS. SCOTTI EARLY BECAME ACTIVE IN TRADE UNION WORK WITH THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-ORIENTED LABOR CONFEDERATION CISL. THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE MEZZOGIORNO -- ITALY'S UNDER-DEVELOPED SOUTH -- WAS HIS AREA OF PRIMARY INTEREST. IN 1958, HE WAS NOMINATED BY CISL FOUNDER GIULIO PASTORE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MEZZOGIORNO, LATER BECOMING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BODY.

3. IN TIME, SCOTTI ADVANCED THROUGH THE CISL HIERARCHY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ITS GENERAL COUNCIL WHERE HE CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF GIULIO ANDREOTTI. SCOTTI'S EXPERTISE IN MEZZOGIORNO ECONOMICS LED TO VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS IN COMMON MARKET COMMITTEES AND WORK GROUPS. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A FREQUENT INSTRUCTOR AT CISL'S TRAINING CENTER NEAR FLORENCE.

4. IN TMF PREVIOUS ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, HE WAS NAMED UNDER SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF THE BUDGET IN 1976. IN THAT CAPACITY, HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC POLICY (CIPE) WHICH, AMONG THE VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS IT EXERCISES, DEALS WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF FAILING ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES WHICH IT MAY RECOMMEND FOR TAKEOVER BY THE STATE. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, SCOTTI HAS BECOME ONE OF ANDREOTTI'S CLOSEST ADVISERS AND HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE ELABORATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HE HAS THUS BEEN FREQUENTLY INVOLVED IN STUDIES TOUCHING ON LABOR MOBILITY, FREEZES ON PUBLIC SERVICE HIRING AND PROPOSALS FOR A "SOCIAL CONTRACT" BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT.

5. SCOTTI WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1968 REPRESENTING THE NAPLES / CASERTA DISTRICT. HE HAS BEEN HANDILY RE-ELECTED FROM THE SAME DISTRICT IN 1972 AND 1976.

6. A STUDIOUS, EARNEST MAN OF AVERAGE HEIGHT, SCOTTI IS AN APPROACHABLE PERSON NOT FREIGHTED WITH EXCESSIVE AIRS OR EGO. HIS APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF LABIOR HAS BEEN WELCOMED WARMLY BY THE UNIONS. UNDOUBTEDLY, BOTH HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT AS WELL AS

HIS READY ACCESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER WILL STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD IN HIS NEW POST. HE IS VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICANS IN GENERAL. SCOTTI VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN 1972 UNDER AUSPICES OF THE IVP.

7. AMONG THE THREE UNDER SECRETARIES NAMED MARCH 15 TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, ADOLFO LORIS CRISTOFORI IS A HOLDOVER. THE OTHER TWO ARE ENEA PICCINELLI AND CALOGERO PUMILIA, BOTH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTIES WHO HAVE NOT BEFORE BEEN UNDER SECRETARIES. NEITHER IS WELL KNOWN TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

8. PICCINELLI WAS BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 08 DEC 2014] IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PIANCASTAGNAIO (PROVINCE OF SIENA) AND LIVES IN GROSSETO. A LAWYER AND JOURNALIST, HE HAS LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ELECTIVE POLITICS BEGINNING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN GROSSETO. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1963, WHERE IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS OCCUPIED A POSITION ON ITS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

9. PUMILIA, A DIMINUTIVE, AMBITIOUS SICILIAN, WAS BORN DECEMBER 27, 1936 IN CALTABELLOTTA (PROVINCE OF PALERMO); HE LIVES IN PALERMO. HE HAS A DOCTORATE IN LAW, THOUGH HIS PROFESSION IS THAT OF A WRITER-JOURNALIST. ONE OF THE NEWER, YOUNGER MEMBER OF THE DC INNER CIRCLE, PUMILIA WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1972; HE IS ALREADY A VICE PRESIDENT (I.E., DEPUTY WHIP) OF THE DC GROUP IN THE CHAMBER. ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE FORZE NUOVE FACTION LED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES DONAT-CATTIN, PUMILIA HAS EARNED THE LATTER'S DISPLEASURE BY SWITCHING TO THE ZACCAGNINI GROUP.

10. BALDASSARE ARMATO, DC DEPUTY REPRESENTING NAPLES

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AND ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S PRIME CONTACTS, HAS BEEN
SHIFTED FROM THE POST OF UNDER SECRETARY IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOR TO AN UNDER SECRETARY POSITION
IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

11. COMMENT. THE SHIFT OF TINA ANSELMINI FROM THE
LABOR TO THE HEALTH PORTFOLIO RESULTS IN PART FROM HER
BEING MADE THE SCAPEGOAT FOR THE FAILURE (AT LEAST
TO DATE) OF THE VAUNTED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BILL WHICH
WAS ENACTED UNDER HER SPONSORSHIP. LAUNCHED WITH
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CONSIDERABLE FANFARE AS A MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL EFFORT
TO ALLEVIATE THE ACUTE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM AMONG
FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS, ONLY A VERY SMALL FRACTION OF
THE 600,000 JOBS IT WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE HAVE IN
FACT COME INTO BEING. THE FAULT WAS SURELY NOT ANSELMINI'S.
RATHER, THE INAUSPICIOUS ECONOMIC CLIMATE COUPLED WITH
EMPLOYER UNHAPPINESS OVER THEIR INABILITY TO SELECT AMONG
PROSPECTIVE JOB APPLICANTS, AS WELL AS THEIR FEAR THAT
THEY WOULD BECOME SADDLED PERMANENTLY WITH ADDITIONAL
EMPLOYEES, COMBINED TO DOOM THE PLAN.

12. THERE IS ALSO REASON TO THINK, BASED ON DIS-PARAGING COMMENTS OCCASIONALLY MADE ABOUT HER PERSON, THAT ANSELMI WAS RESENTED AS A WOMAN IN THE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY MASCULINE PRESERVE OF ORGANIZED LABOR. SOME HAVE ALSO ACCUSED HER OF A LACK OF CANDOR IN DEALING WITH LABOR LEADERS, OF GOING OVER THEIR HEADS IN SEEKING TO RESOLVE LABOR DISPUTES. IN SCOTTL, IN ANY EVENT, ANDREOTTI WOULD SEEM TO HAVE FOUND A VERY ATTRACTIVE SUBSTITUTE. FURTHERMORE, ANSELMI HAS CERTAINLY NOT BEEN ASSIGNED A SINECURE IN HER NEW POST: THE REFORM OF ITALY'S TANGLED, DEBT-RIDDEN HEALTH SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE MAJOR PERENNIAL TARGETS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT. GARDNER

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